

November 5, 1954

Dr. Werner Braun  
Camp Detrick  
Frederick, Md.

Dear Werner:

Thank you for your letter of the 29th. Unfortunately, I had not counted on going to the SAB, as I was already scheduled for various other engagements next Spring; at any rate, I do not think I can commit myself to the symposium, though I thank you for inviting me to participate in it.

From your second paragraph, I gather you are already a little uneasy about how much the geneticists listed may be able to say about "epidemiology", I wonder if it would not have served better to have invited one or two people whose primary interest was in infectious diseases. For example, in my place, I would urge you to consider Phil Edwards (at Chamblee). Since our collaborative work he has been continuing his own studies on transduction of serological characters in Salmonella, and I know he has been greatly concerned about their bearing on the natural history of this bacterium. And for drug-resistance, I thought someone of the ilk of Harry Eagle or Philip Miller would be most appropriate (or even better, Finland). Your own paper and perhaps Hotchkiss' would balance such a program on the genetic side. As it is, I would suggest that the tenor of the program is too heavily weighted on the theoretical side to justify the title "Contributions".

Garber presented his stuff here a few weeks ago. While it has some interest as an experimental study, it would be hardest of all to relate it to "Epidemiology". All this is no argument against modifying the title to suit the content you finally decide upon.

Should you adopt a different viewpoint, I would like to recommend a second alternative speaker for topic (4) - Dr. Aleck Bernstein. He has had some epidemiological experience in the British PHLS, has a medical background, and has been working here for the last year+ with both the crossing of E. coli strains concerned in epidemic infantile diarrhea and with transduction effects on Salmonella somatic antigens. His training in bacterial genetics is certainly more extensive than Edwards', but Phil's unusual practical experience would, I think, weigh strongly in his favor if you agreed with me on the general orientation of such a symposium.

Yours sincerely,

*Joshua Lederberg*  
Joshua Lederberg

P.S. Thanks for the reprints. The Council's will be here till early December, then will visit the West Coast. They hope to visit Wash. again near the end of the year - why don't you write him for details?